

Message Text

SECRET

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64

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 L-02 PRS-01 DRC-01 /053 W

----- 018113

R 230933Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3937

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USUN NEW YORK 1346

S E C R E T SEOUL 3294

LIMDIS NOFORN

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, AS, KN

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

1. MOFA ASIA BUREAU DIRECTOR CHI SONG-KU TOLD POL
COUNS THAT ROKG GLUMLY AWARE OF FACT WHITLAM GOVERNMENT
WILL REMAIN IN POWER. CHI INDICATED MOFA REALIZES THAT
EVENTUAL AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA NOW
APPEARS INEVITABLE.

2. HOWEVER, CHI ALSO SAID THAT AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR
BOURCHIER APPROACHED ACTING FONMIN LHO POSING TWO
QUESTIONS. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR FIRST ASKED WHAT
ROKG REACTION WOULD BE IF GOA PROCEEDS TO RECOGNIZE
NORTH KOREA IN JULY-AUGUST PERIOD. ACCORDING CHI,
LHO REPLIED ROKG FIRM POSITION OPPOSING AUSTRALIAN
RECOGNITION WOULD BE UNCHANGED. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR
THEN ASKED WHAT ROKG REACTION WOULD BE IF RECOGNITION
OF NORTH KOREA DEFERRED UNTIL OCT-NOV PERIOD. CHI SAID
LHO REPLIED THAT ROKG WOULD BE UNHAPPY WITH
AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA, IN ANY EVENT,
BUT IF RECOGNITION DEFERRED "SEVERAL MONTHS" ROKG WOULD
ACCEPT IT. (CHI DEFINED "SEVERAL MONTHS" AS MEANING
AFTER UNGA CONSIDERATION OF KOREAN QUESTION.)

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3. CHI SAID THAT LHO ALSO POINTED OUT TO AMBASSADOR BOURCHIER THAT SCHEDULED TRIP BY PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM TO USSR AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THIS SUMMER WOULD BE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR WHITLAM TO RAISE QUESTION OF RECIPROCAL GESTURES BY COMMUNIST POWERS TOWARDS ROKG IN EXCHANGE OF AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA.

4. CHI SAID THAT BOURCHIER MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT BUT INDICATED HE WOULD REPORT FULLY TO CANBERRA ON HIS MEETING WITH LHO. (WE SUSPECT BOURCHIER'S APPROACH WAS TAKEN ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE TO SMOKE OUT MOFA.)
ERICSON

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